

But as states such as Florida and Georgia continue to pass election reform legislation, Members of Congress cannot go home and tell their constituents that help from the federal government is on the way. As of today, help from the federal government is not on the way. In the 107th Congress, 28 bills and two resolutions addressing some aspect of election reform have been introduced. 16 bills and two resolutions have been introduced here in the House of Representatives, and 12 bills have been introduced in the Senate. Yet despite the overwhelming support for election reform, Congress has not acted on any piece of election reform legislation. Even more, just last week, the House and the Senate both passed budgets that provide no funding for election reform.

On top of that, the Bush Administration has not only refused to make election reform a priority, but it has also refused to even comment on it. At a meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus eleven days into his presidency, President Bush indicated that he intended to make election reform a priority of his Administration. This promise, however, has been nothing more than words. Election reform is an issue that demands presidential leadership in order to succeed. President Bush has not been up to the task.

In order for election reform in this country to be a success, a partnership must be forged between the states and the federal government. Improving voting systems and investing in voter education programs is not cheap. It costs money—a lot of money. It is disheartening to think that as states revise and revamp their election systems, the federal government is not there to assist them in their efforts. It is both unfair and unrealistic for states to spend millions of dollars updating their election systems and incur the associated costs without the federal government helping out. I am confident that state legislatures will continue to address the specific problems that exist in their state's election system, but I am less optimistic that Congress, under Republican leadership, will take the necessary steps to reinstall America's confidence in its election process. If Congress does not play a part, particularly in the area of funding, then it is almost certain that the majority of these state initiated election reform programs will fall well short of satisfactory.

We have a unique opportunity here in Congress to reassure every American that he or she will never be denied the right to vote. Congress can create universal standards that do not infringe upon a state's authority to oversee its own election process, and at the same time, ensure that every vote is counted. Former President Jimmy Carter has gone so far as to say, "The Carter Center has standards for participation as a monitor of an election, and the United States of America would not qualify at all." This is more than embarrassing, it is shameful.

In the coming weeks, Congress must address the problems that exist in the American election process. Congress needs to pass a universal provisional ballot measure that requires poll workers to offer any person not appearing on the eligible voters list the opportunity to cast a provisional ballot. In addition, Congress needs to pass a universal anti-purg-

ing measure to reinforce the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Congress also needs to provide funding to states to assist them in the upgrading of their election programs. Finally, Congress needs to address other possible means of election reform including universal poll closing times, lengthening the amount of time Americans have to vote, the counting of military and overseas ballots, and voter and poll worker education and training.

Mr. Speaker, time is running out for Congress to pass meaningful election reform legislation. America's election process has fallen under the scrutiny of the people it seeks to empower. Without the support of the federal government, not matter how much legislation states pass and how hard states attempt to reassure their citizens that the problems of Election 2000 have been solved, voters will remain skeptical. People will walk away from the polls wondering if their vote will count. This cannot happen. If Congress does not act immediately, then the lessons learned from the disasters of last year's election will be lost. Quite frankly, this is not something the people of South Florida and the rest of the country want to hear.

RECOGNIZING THE IEEE MILESTONE AWARD

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in recognizing and paying tribute to the achievements of those involved in electronic technology as part of our nation's space program from 1950 to 1969.

As was originally stated in President John F. Kennedy's "Special Message to the Congress on Urgent National Needs," delivered on May 25, 1961, our space program was an effort of monumental proportions in terms of scientific advancement, financial commitment, individual dedication, as well as personal and organizational sacrifice. The dividend of the efforts represented by this IEEE Milestone designation and other honors is the peace, without nuclear confrontation, which our nation and others throughout the world have been so blessed to have experienced.

As this is the 37th IEEE Milestone designation in the world, and the only one to recognize the United States space program, we applaud the advances in electrical and electronics engineering which this international honor represents.

The citation for the Milestone plaque is as follows:

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY FOR SPACE ROCKET LAUNCHES, 1950-1969

"The demonstrated success in space flight is the result of electronic technology developed at Cape Canaveral, the Kennedy Space Center, and other sites, and applied here. A wide variety of advances in radar tracking, data telemetry, instrumentation, space-to-ground communications, on-board guidance, and real-time computation were employed to support the U.S. space program. These and other electronic developments provided the infrastructure necessary for the successful

landing of men on the moon in July 1969 and their safe return to earth."

I urge all of my colleagues to join with me as we celebrate this IEEE Milestone which recognizes the men and women of our nation's space program.

HONORING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER JUDY BLUESTONE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 4, Judy Bluestone will be honored with the 2001 Community Service Human Relations Award by the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

This award is given to those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership, two qualities that are exemplified in Judy's work within her community. Since moving to Milwaukee in 1985, she has exhibited a tireless dedication to numerous worthy causes throughout the area.

A mother of two, Judy has always been concerned with the needs of young children. She is on the board of the Betty Brinn Children's Museum as well as Start Smart Milwaukee, a child advocacy organization. Her love for the arts is shared with children through her work with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra.

However, Bluestone works with more than children in Milwaukee's artistic community. She is beginning her third term on the Milwaukee Arts Board, and also devotes her time and energy to the Artist Series and Skylight Opera Theater. In 1995 she was appointed co-chair of the United Performing Arts Fund's annual campaign.

Judy's tireless effort on behalf of such organizations as the United Way and the National Council of Jewish Women has garnered her a number of awards and distinctions. She is a recipient of Israel's Golda Meir Award and the Metropolitan Milwaukee Civic Alliance Award. In 1999 she was elected president of the Women's Division of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. Her outstanding contributions to the causes that she holds dear serve as a model for community activism that few of us could live up to.

And so it is my great pleasure to join the American Jewish Committee, as well as all those whose lives she has touched, in congratulating 2001 Community Service Human Relations Award winner Judy Bluestone on this richly deserved honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH AN- NIVERSARY OF MACOMB COUN- TY'S RETIRED AND SENIOR VOL- UNTEER PROGRAM

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 15th anniversary of one of